



## **Educator Licensure Policy – Tennessee Department of Education Operating Procedures (5.502a):**

### **Endorsement Flexibility and Additional Endorsements**

#### **Endorsement Flexibility for Districts and Schools**

Districts and schools may exercise limited flexibility for educators who hold the following endorsements.

pre-K-3	May teach any course in grade 4 in a school that includes grade 3.
K-5	May teach any course in grade 6 in a school that includes grade 5.
6-8	May teach courses in grade 5 in the same content area as the 6-8 endorsement.
6-12	May teach courses in grade 5 in the same content area as the 6-12 endorsement.
7-12	May teach courses in grade 6 in the same content area as the 6-12 endorsement.

#### **Program Guidance for Additional Endorsements**

1. An educator preparation provider must offer an approved program for initial endorsement in order to offer the program for additional endorsement (with the exception of the additional endorsements in Geography 6-12, Marketing 6-12, ESL pre-K-12, and Gifted Education pre-K-12). Providers which offer programs for additional endorsement must submit a list to the TDOE of specialty areas. This list must include additional endorsements are offered and a description of the processes used by the provider to assess the individual candidates to determine needed coursework.

Educator preparation providers will determine an individualized program for candidates seeking additional endorsements. Providers will determine what coursework and/or clinical experiences are needed by individual candidates. In evaluating for knowledge and skills, the provider will undertake one or more of the following:

- a. An examination of the candidate's transcript,
  - b. An examination of the candidate's professional experience and competence in the knowledge and skills as verified by an employer,
  - c. Opportunities for candidates to test out of courses if appropriate, and
  - d. Administration of other tests or assessments of the knowledge and skills deemed appropriate by the provider.
2. Educator preparation providers will ensure candidates hold a valid educator license in Tennessee prior to being recommended for additional endorsements.



3. **General Education:** Educator preparation providers should not require general education coursework as part of programs of study for additional endorsements.
4. **Professional Education:** Educator preparation providers should not require professional education coursework as part of programs of study for additional endorsements unless the coursework is directly related to pedagogical content knowledge related to the area in which the candidate is seeking additional endorsement. For example, if an educator is seeking an additional endorsement in secondary math, courses in math pedagogy may be appropriate.
5. **Specialty Area Knowledge and Skills:** The provider will use the applicable knowledge and skills of teaching in the specialty area as a focus for determining a program of study for the additional endorsement. In determining the exact coursework to be required for each candidate, the provider will consider previous coursework and relevant experiences in lieu of specialty coursework. In some cases, no coursework may be needed or required.

The specifications regarding coursework for an additional endorsement area do not apply to the following:

- a. individuals seeking initial licensure,
  - b. individuals who hold an occupational education license and seek an academic license,
  - c. or individuals who hold a license and who seek another endorsement for which a Master's degree is required.
6. **Clinical Experiences:** The candidate may need to have additional supervised clinical experience in the additional endorsement area. Clinical experiences may be obtained in a variety of ways. Because additional endorsements apply to licensed educators, clinical practice (an enhanced student teaching semester or a year-long internship) will not be required.

The candidate's prior or current teaching experience may count as clinical experience. The provider will consider:

- a. when the teaching experience occurred
- b. in what specialty area the teaching experience occurred
- c. Whether the candidate received appropriate supervision and support
- d. The results of the local evaluation or other assessment of the candidate's performance

### Candidate Guidance for Additional Endorsements

1. Candidates for additional endorsement in ESL, pre-K-12, complete a clinical experience of at least 30 clock hours in English as a second language settings; the clinical experience will include experiences in both the pre-K-5 and 6-12 grade levels. Appropriately supervised teaching experience at the pre-K-12 level in ESL of at least one semester may be substituted for the clinical experience.
2. Candidates who have attained a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution



and a teaching license from another state and who seek initial licensure or an additional endorsement on a Tennessee teacher license shall be considered to have met the general education requirements and professional education requirements on the same basis as Tennessee candidates.

3. Teachers who are licensed in Tennessee and who complete programs of study for additional endorsements at approved educator preparation providers in other states may be recommended by the out-of-state institution to the Tennessee Department of Education for additional endorsements.
4. Teachers who are licensed in Tennessee, another state, or who have completed an approved educator preparation program in a teaching area covering a grade span that is more narrow than the comparable Tennessee K-12 or pre-K-12 teaching endorsement, shall be awarded the Tennessee endorsement. This will be the case provided that the applicant has six hours of course work in current content in the teaching area in the grade span not covered by the existing endorsement.
5. Teachers endorsed in Early Childhood Education pre-K-3 may teach grade 4 in schools having grade 3 if there are no other appropriately endorsed teachers available.



### Adding endorsements based on submitting qualifying scores on required content assessments

Table I categorizes endorsements by type, including Core Academic, Early Childhood, Elementary, Fine Arts, PE/Health, Special Populations, and World Languages<sup>1</sup>. Endorsements listed in the third column are those that can be added to a license that already includes the endorsement listed in the second column. Assessment scores submitted for additional endorsements must be the required assessment and meet the corresponding qualifying score at the time of application. Qualifying scores on assessment no longer used may not be used for this purpose. In limited cases, the department will accept qualifying scores related to the teaching of reading and/or general tests related to the special education core. Educators should verify whether the department will accept scores from discontinued assessments before applying for additional endorsement based on test-only options.

<b>Table I</b> <b>Endorsements that can be added by submitting a qualifying assessment score.*</b>		
<b>Category (Grade Span)</b>	<b>Endorsement Area Held</b>	<b>Test-Only Options</b>
CA – MG (4-8; 6-8)	Mathematics	All CA – MG (6-8 only)
	English/Language Arts	
	Science	
	Social Studies	
	Middle Grades Education	
CA – SEC (6-12; 7-12)	Biology	All CA – MG (6-8 only) All CA – SEC (6-12 only)
	Chemistry	
	Earth Science	
	Economics	
	English	
	Geography	
	Government	
	History	
	Mathematics	
	Physics	
	Sociology	
	Speech Communication	
ECE (pre-K-3; pre-K-K)	Early Childhood Education	ECE (pre-K-K only)
	Early Development/Learning	N/A

<sup>1</sup> See Table II for description of categories and grade spans.



ELEM (K-6; K-5)	Elementary Education	N/A
FA (K-12)	Dance	All CA – MG (6-8 only) All CA – SEC (6-12 only) All FA All PE
	Instrumental/General Music	
	Theatre	
	Visual Arts	
	Vocal/General Music	
PE (K-12)	Health and Wellness	All CA – MG (6-8 only) All CA – SEC (6-12 only) All FA All PE
	Physical Education K-12	
SP (PreK-12)	Speech/Language Teacher	N/A
SP (K-12)	Special Education Comprehensive	CA-MG (6-8 only) All CA – SEC (6-12 only) All FA All PE All SP
	Special Education Modified	
SP (K-8)	Interventionist	ELEM (K-5 only) CA-MG (6-8 only) All SP-PreK-12
SP (6-12)	Interventionist	CA-MG (6-8 only) All CA – SEC (6-12 only) All SP-PreK-12
SP (pre-K-12)	Special Education Hearing	N/A
	Special Education Vision	
	Gifted Education	
SP - PATH (pre-K-12)	Speech/Language Pathologist	N/A
SP - ESL (pre-K-12)	English as a Second Language	N/A
SP - ECE (pre-K-3)	Special Education Early Childhood	N/A



WL - ALL (pre-K-12)	Arabic	All CA – SEC (6-12 only) All FA All PE
	Chinese	
	French	
	German	
	Greek	
	Japanese	
	Latin	
	Other Foreign Language	
	Russian	
	Spanish	
WL – SEC (6-12; 7-12)	French	All CA – SEC(6-12 only) All WL – SEC
	German	
	Latin	
	Other Foreign Language	
	Russian	
	Spanish	



**Table II: Descriptions of Categories and Grade Spans\***

Acronym	Description
<b>Category</b>	
CA – MG	Core Academic – Middle Grades
CA – SEC	Core Academic – Middle and Secondary Grades
ECE	Early Childhood Education
ELEM	Elementary Education
FA	Fine Arts
PE/H	Physical Education and Health
SP - SE	Special Populations – Special Education
SP - ESL	Special Populations – English as a Second Language
SP - PATH	Special Populations – Speech/Language Pathologist
SP - ECE	Special Populations – Early Childhood
WL – ALL	World Languages – PreK through 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
WL – SEC	World Languages – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade through 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>Grade Span</b>	
PreK-K	Prekindergarten through Kindergarten
PreK-3	Prekindergarten through 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
K-5	Kindergarten through 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
K-6	Kindergarten through Sixth Grade
4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade through 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
6-8	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade through 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
6-12	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade through 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
7-12	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade through 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
K12	Kindergarten through 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
P12	Prekindergarten through 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade

\*Educators who hold a valid license with endorsements that are not reflected in these categories and/or grade spans should communicate with the Office of Educator Licensure regarding which endorsements may be added by test-only. We encourage these educators to communicate with the office prior to taking any assessments. Communication should be directed to 615-532-4885 or [education.licensing@tn.gov](mailto:education.licensing@tn.gov).